

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Tintic Junction Knapweed Control and Habitat Improvement Project - Phase 2

Proposal Number: 1348

DWR Region: Central Region

Lead Agency: Other

County: Juab

Project Manager: Stan Cook - Landowner

PM Phone: 8014915654

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 7/1/2008

Project Location: 2 miles south of Tintic Junction near Eureka, UT.

Project Description: Harrow, broadcast spray, and reseed 230 acres of knapweed and cheatgrass infested private rangeland

Description of Problem/Need: Tintic Valley historically provided critical winter range for mule deer and greater sage grouse. In recent years with large wildfires, many invasive weeds have invaded into Tintic Valley and have become dominant in many areas. Two of these, squarrose knapweed and cheatgrass, are particularly abundant and have degraded large acreages of important rangeland and wildlife habitat.

In order to prevent prolonged domination of Tintic Valley by invasive weeds, and to stop the further spread of these invasive species into intact vegetative communities, knapweed and cheatgrass need to be controlled and desirable perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs need to be reestablished.

Objectives: 1) Control squarrose knapweed and cheatgrass with a combination of chemical spraying and reseeding perennial vegetation within project area; 2) Reestablish a perennial understory composed of grasses, forbs, and shrubs to compete with invasives post-treatment; 3) Break up large areas of knapweed and cheatgrass infestations to assist with fire suppression and prevention goals of state and federal land management agencies

Relevance to Strategic Plans: The project area occurs within the sagebrush steppe type which is one of the key habitats identified in the WAP. This area supports mule deer (Tier III) and Greater sage grouse (Tier II). Numerous other species of concern (Tier III) also inhabit the area including neotropical birds and raptors.

The proposed treatments lie within Central Region UPCD focus areas.

The proposed treatments will help address strategies outlined in the WDARM sage grouse conservation plan; Reduce the threat of conversion of sagebrush stands to invasive/noxious weed communities. Work with public and private partners to implement livestock management plans that address seasonal needs of sage-grouse and livestock operations. By 2016, increase brood-rearing habitat quality in the Resource Area.

The proposed projects will address some of the habitat management strategies outlined in the deer management plan for herd unit 19 (Vernon) including: continue to restore and improve sagebrush steppe habitats critical to deer according to DWR's Habitat Initiative; cooperate with federal land management agencies and private landowners in carrying out habitat improvements such as reseeds, controlled burns, water developments etc. on public and private lands; and maintain and/or enhance forage production through direct range improvements throughout the unit to achieve population management objectives.

The proposed projects will address the following goals and objectives of the Division of Wildlife Resources most recent strategic management plan:

Resource Goal: expand wildlife populations and conserve sensitive species by protecting and improving wildlife habitat.

Objective 1: protect existing wildlife habitat and improve 500,000 acres of critical habitats and watersheds throughout the state by 2010.

Objective 3: conserve sensitive species to prevent them from becoming listed as threatened or endangered.

Constituency Goal: Achieve broad-based support for Division programs and budgets by demonstrating the value of wildlife to all citizens of Utah.

Objective 2: improve communication with wildlife organizations, public officials, private landowners, and government agencies to obtain support for Division programs.

Potential Risks: Failure to control knapweed might result in seeding failure. Failure of seeded plants to establish due to drought.

Proposed Methods: 1) Pinyon-juniper whips will be cleared and piled within sagebrush treatment areas during spring/summer 2009; 2) One way harrow 90 acres of degraded, decadent big sagebrush in August 2009; 3) Boom spray entire project area with Plateau in September 2009; 4) Drill seed 85 acres of cheatgrass infested lands in Fall 2009; 5) broadcast seed and back harrow 90 acres that were previously harrowed during the Fall of 2009; 6) Boom spray 145 acres of harrowed and previously drill seeded (Phase I) areas in Spring/Summer 2010 as a follow up treatment to control squarrose knapweed.

Shapefile Name: 1348.shp

Seed Source: GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 1/13/2009

Project Proposal

**Proposed
NEPA Action:**

**Proposed
Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Permanent range trend transect will be located within the project site to monitor seeding success and control of noxious weeds. Juab County weed department will also do follow up monitoring to determine control of squarrose knapweed.

Grazing Management: Landowner does not own livestock, but has leased this area to outside grazers in the past. Landowner has agreed to rest the entire project area for as long as needed to ensure seeding establishment. Project area will not be grazed until the landowner and DWR have met to determine reseeding success. At that time, a grazing plan will be agreed upon depending on available forage following treatments.

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer	Greater Sage-grouse	Neotropical Birds	Raptors
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LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
Private	230
Total	230

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Private	\$7,000.00		\$0.00
Other	\$4,500.00		\$0.00
Unfunded Balance	\$22,828.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$34,328.00		\$0.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Seed (GBRC)	drill mix for 85 acres @ \$75/acre	\$6,375.00	\$0.00
Seed (GBRC)	broadcast mix for 90 acres @ \$60/acre	\$5,400.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	broadcast spray 230 acres (Plateau)	\$0.00	\$2,760.00
Contractual Services	broadcast spray 145 acres (Milestone)	\$0.00	\$1,740.00
Materials and Supplies	11 gallons Plateau herbicide @ \$300/gallon	\$3,300.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	8.5 gallons Milestone herbicide @ \$365/gallon	\$3,103.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	drill seeding of 85 acres @20/acre	\$0.00	\$1,700.00
Contractual Services	2 way harrow for 90 acres @ \$50/acre	\$0.00	\$4,500.00
Equipment Rental	tractor for seeding and harrowing	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	surfactant - 13 gal @ \$50/gal	\$650.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	clear P-J whips from sagebrush trmt areas	\$0.00	\$800.00
	Totals	\$22,828.00	\$11,500.00

Tintic Jct Knapweed Control and Habitat Improvement Project Phase 2

